



For Immediate Release

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JACKSON SAYS PUT ASIDE BICKERING AND BUILD AIRPORT

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. made this statement about today's jobs summit at the White House.

"I commend President Barack Obama for bringing executives, experts and economists together for a jobs summit to create new jobs and put the American people back to work.

"The nation's jobless rate is at a 26-year high, and a recent study concluded that Illinois is one of nine states barreling toward an economic disaster. We in Congress have an obligation to continue working with the administration on targeted and timely proposals to encourage and accelerate job creation in our country.

"As President Obama has said, 'Now is the time to act boldly and wisely -- to not only revive this economy, but to build a new foundation for lasting prosperity...It's an agenda that begins with jobs.'

"I wholeheartedly and unequivocally agree with the President.

"That's why I believe we must put aside the political bickering and bureaucratic foot-dragging and finally come together to build a third airport in the Chicago region. Through an innovative public-private partnership, the third airport would create thousands of jobs and generate billions in new economic activity for the state, all at little cost or risk to taxpayers.

"The proposal brings together the best of two worlds -- the experience and expertise of world-class private sector developers with the oversight and input of an inclusive public sector authority. It represents a new model and approach to rebuild our nation's deteriorating infrastructure and revitalize our sagging economy.

"Now is the time to build the airport. Now is the time to solve Chicago's aviation capacity crunch. Now is the time to create new jobs in communities that desperately need them.

"With Barack Obama as President, we have the opportunity to overcome old obstacles and repair the cracks and breaches in the shattered communities that he witnessed as a community organizer."

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